

# The Caisson Corner

Camp Liberty, Iraq

From the Battalion Commander

June 2006

Greetings once again from Camp Liberty, Iraq to the Iron Caisson family. We are at the halfway point in our deployment and the 589<sup>th</sup> BSB is in full swing supporting the fight. The Command Sergeant Major and I are extremely grateful for the continued support of all of the friends and family back home. Things are beginning to heat up for the Iron Caissons. As we move into the summer months, we now regularly face temperatures in excess of 115 degrees. We are staying cool and our leaders are making sure our Soldiers stay safe. All living and office spaces are air conditioned and there are several cooling buildings in the motor pool for Soldiers to take a break from the sun. Cold bottled water and ice are readily available as well. Not only are things heating up outside, but the pace of our operations is heating up as well. Our Soldiers stay engaged every day in the maintenance and combat readiness of a large fleet of vehicles and a diverse customer base. Many units in the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division rely on the services provided by the



589<sup>th</sup> BSB.

Our Soldiers are also making an impact on the bright future of Iraq every day. We have recently completed several lift support missions for barrier material to increase security of several security checkpoints in the city of Baghdad. Not only do the Iron Caissons improve security, but we are also sharing our logistical knowledge and expertise with the developing Iraqi Army. A team of supply specialists from Alpha Company have for

several months been partnering with Iraq logisticians to build supply support activities to support an entire Iraqi Army Division of equipment. The efforts of this small, but professional group will be felt for generations and will dramatically improve the readiness of the Iraqi Army.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of June, the 589<sup>th</sup> BSB took a break from the daily missions to celebrate two momentous occasions. The first was the 231<sup>st</sup> birthday of the United States Army; the second was the one year anniversary of the Iron Caissons. On the 16<sup>th</sup> of June, 2005, the 589<sup>th</sup> BSB was officially activated.

It amazes me every day, the dedication and selfless service that went into making this battalion what it is today. It is truly remarkable to have organized, trained, equipped, and deployed to combat



## Inside this issue:

- Commander and CSM send
- Company News
- Caisson Staff News
- Faces of 589th

in less than a year. None of this would have been possible without the loving support and patience of our families. Again, thank you for your continued support of the Iron Caissons. I would ask that you stay in touch with your unit Family Readiness Group for the latest information and events.

IRON CAISSON'S

"SUPPORT THE FIGHT"

LTC BARRY A. DIEHL

## From the Battalion Command Sergeant Major

Hooah!!

Just over halfway thru our deployment and the Iron Caissons are rolling along! Many of our families have had the opportunity to reunite with their Soldier for two weeks thanks to the Environmental Leave Program (EML). This program gives Soldiers the opportunity to take 15 days of chargeable leave and travel to the destination of their choice at no cost to them. Many more of our Soldiers will have the opportunity to take advantage of this great break over the next few months. By July's end, 86% of the Iron Caissons will have

departed on EML and we project that all Soldiers will be afforded the opportunity to take leave.

For some, 15 days leave is not the desired choice for them, or their family. For those Soldiers, there is also a four day pass program to the country of Qatar. There, Soldiers can enjoy a variety of activities and soak up some much deserved rest and recuperation. You will see throughout this newsletter how very hard our Soldiers work everyday



and the great contributions they are making to the stability and security of Iraq and the ultimate defeat of terrorism. We will continue to monitor and allow Soldiers the opportunity to get some much deserved down time. The great Non Commissioned Officers of 589<sup>th</sup> continue to lead the way in mission accomplishment and taking care of Soldiers.

"Support the Fight"

-CSM Eric L. Taylor

Check us out on the Web @

<http://www.hood.army.mil/4id/Units/Firesbde/589SB/589nl.html>

Visit the 4ID Website for up-to-date information and news@

<http://www.hood.army.mil/4id/>



## The Caisson Corner



Greetings from FOB Liberty!

The Hammer Heads have accomplished a lot during the month of May into the beginning of June. We ended May by promoting four great soldiers and one great NCO. We would like to congratulate SSG Tackett, PFC Raddie, SPC Lawrence, SPC Stringfield and SPC Huey. They were absolutely well deserved promotions and I am very proud of all them.

## Headquarters Company "Hammer Heads"

The Hammer Heads have about 187 days under their belt and have started the month of June continuing to look forward to taking EML and the months ahead bringing us closer to home. The soldiers continue to work hard and make me proud everyday.

We had yet another great soldier become promotable this month of June by passing the promotion board. Congratulation to SPC(P) Kortabani. He did a great job and it is well deserved.

The soldiers continuously support all guard duties, become licensed on the M998 and M1114s, become certified as Combat Life Savers and qualify on their assigned weapon systems.

I continue to be proud of all the soldiers in HHC. We truly have come a long way. All the soldiers, NCOs and Officers work very hard and we have come together very nicely. Thank you to everyone who supports us.

God Bless all of you.

-CPT Whittenberger

**Hammer Heads  
make it happen!**



## A Company "Rough Riders"



**Rough Riders  
Roll!!!**



We are half way through our deployment. Time is going fast and missions are keeping us occupied. It is pretty hot too; 116 degrees for a high. The Rough Riders have completed two major barrier mission over the past month. Soldiers are gaining experience and are learning invaluable lessons in a deployed environment. These experiences will make them better leaders, they are already the BEST Soldiers. I am glad to be on the winning team.

We had 4 new Rough Riders arrive to our unit: SPC Kitchen, PFC Lopez, PFC Collins and PFC Patton. We are glad to have them on the team. We had Soldiers obtain promotable status: SGT Morgan, SGT Baker, SGT Garner, SGT Gumont and SPC O'Dell. We look forward to their advancement in the near future. Our Soldiers come off missions, then log on their computers to complete their correspondence courses and/or civilian on-line courses. They are truly dedicated to self-improvement. This is a reflection of the Non-commissioned Officers (NCOs) in my unit. It is also a testament to

the Soldier's individual responsibility and their desire to be well-rounded Soldiers. As Commander, I could not ask for much more.

As my tenure as commander comes to an end, I have focused on the accomplishments of the newly established unit, what WE have overcome and what the future holds for the Rough Rider. There are NO options for let downs! Rough Riders will finish strong, and I WILL pass a great TEAM and organization to the new Commander. I will send out my personal thanks in the near future!

We still have monthly VTCs, so get with the FRG Team and let them know if you desire to participate. Slots are available! Continue to keep us in your prayers and we will keep you in ours.

One Team, One Fight...  
Rough Riders!

-CPT Burns

-ISG Ervin



## B Company "Bandits"

Your Bandit Soldiers that the commander and I have the luxury of leading have been extremely busy as we hit the midway point of our deployment. We have 86 Soldiers that we directly influence and 10 Soldiers that we have attached to other units within the brigade. Now that we are being joined on Camp Liberty by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 20<sup>th</sup> FA and the 67<sup>th</sup> FSC, we have added to our support mission. The heat has been rising and so have the accomplishments that your husbands and wives, sons and daughters, friends and peers have made.

The priority focus for the Bandits is always evolving to the needs of the brigade. We are assisting 2-20 FA on their new mission and ensuring they have all the enhancements needed when they begin their operations in the Baghdad area. We are always working with Alpha Company (The Rough Riders) as they continue to distribute numerous products in and around the Baghdad area. Our wheeled maintenance personnel are steadily working and servicing the many wheeled vehicles we have in the brigade. SSG Donald has come into the unit from the brigade S4 shop and has already made a solid maintenance unit better.

Direct Support shops, (GSE, Armament, C and E, and S and R) have increased their job index rating to .98 out of a possible 1.0. This equates to receiving jobs and completing them in a timely manner, which is what we are here for. Not a day goes by do we not have someone come up to the commander and I and say what a good job one of our Soldiers has done supporting them.

We don't always work; in the past two months we have had the opportunity to participate in the Fires Brigade Desert Fitness Competition where we had a great showing. PFC Ming, our power lifter, came in first place in the weight lifting event and SGT Russell came in third for the NCO's. We had teams place third in both the sand bag competition and the relay races. We also celebrated Asian-Pacific Heritage

Month with a luau that included US military members dancing traditional dances. We have a Battalion Organizational Day scheduled for 18 June, which celebrates the Army's Birthday (17<sup>th</sup>) and our One Year Activation (16<sup>th</sup>).

We have or will have sent home 62 personnel on Environmental (R and R) Leave as of the end of June. All Soldiers in the unit will have the opportunity to take leave before we end our Aug leave cycle. While on leave, PFC McKenzie, had a baby boy on 29 May; Aaron Robert McKenzie. Congratulations to them and best wishes!

While we are congratulating personnel, we have promoted a few Soldiers that I would like to mention. PV2 Kraeger and PV2 Orozco have been promoted to PFC. PFC Haynes has been promoted to SPC and later in the month we will be promoting PFC Lindemann to SPC. Next month will be a significant month as we are due to promote over 20 PFC's to SPC.

-CPT Wheeler

-ISGTucker

## The Caisson Corner



**Bandits have what it takes to get the job done right!**

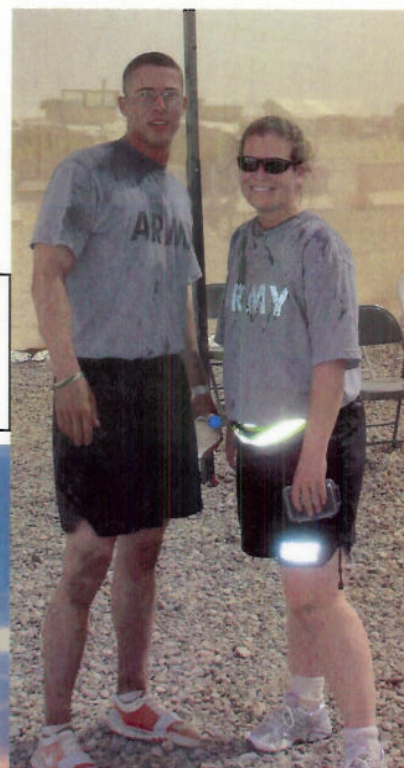




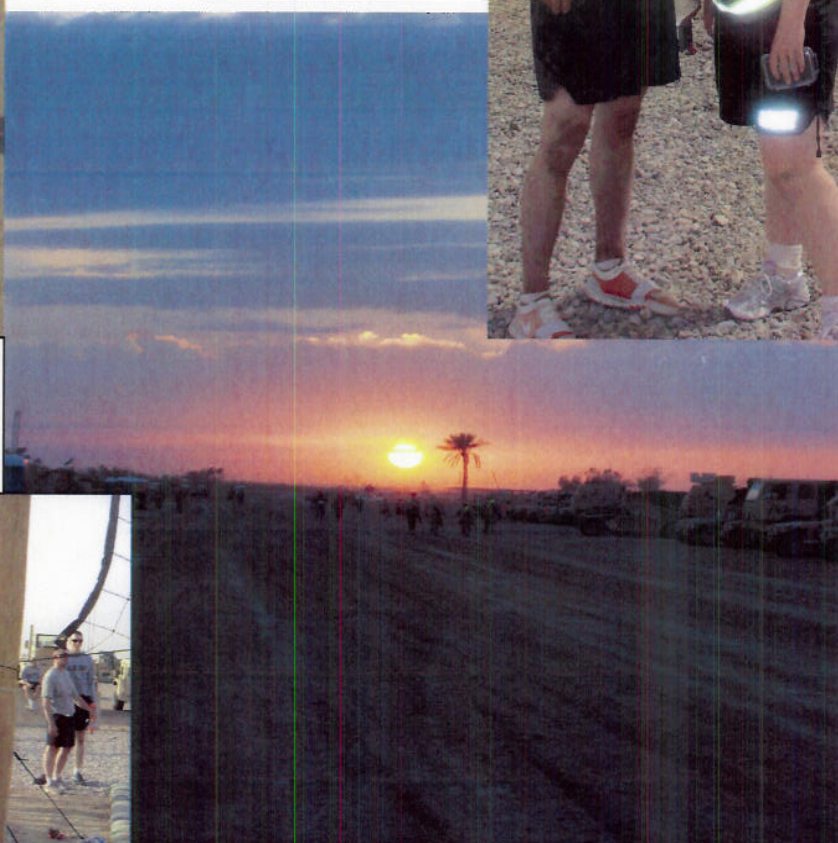
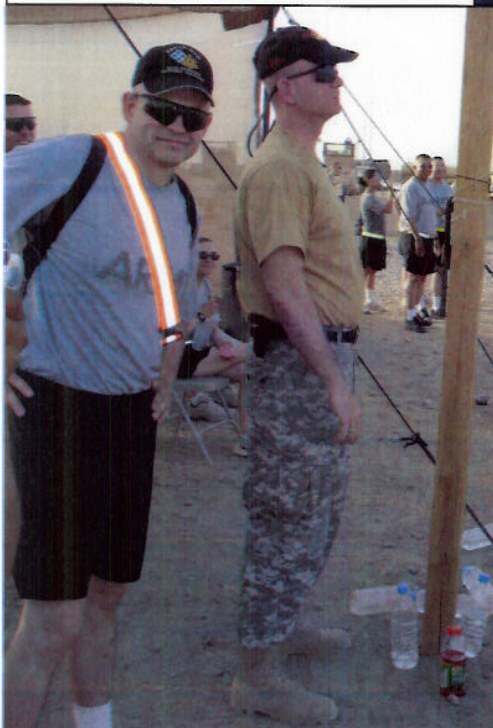


**You can't stop me!  
You can only hope  
to contain me!**

**Just chillin' in  
the shade.**



**These guys make  
pretty good line judges.**



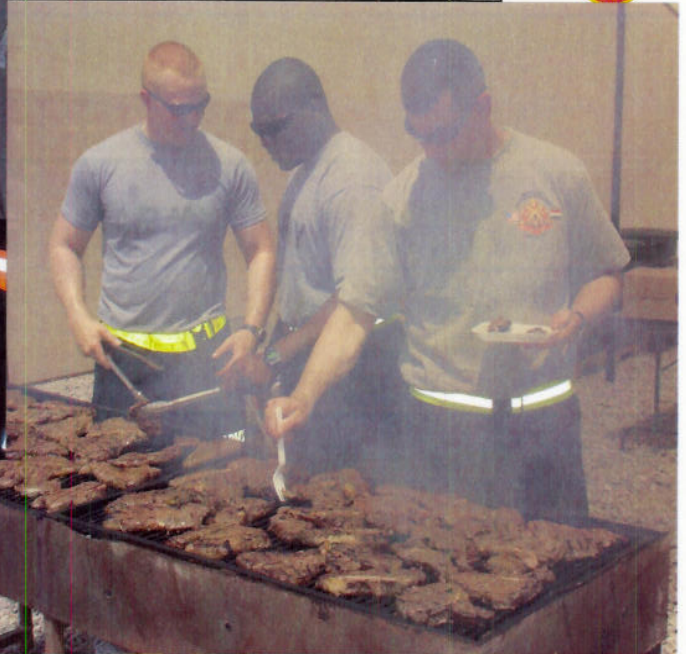


**Bring on the Cake!**

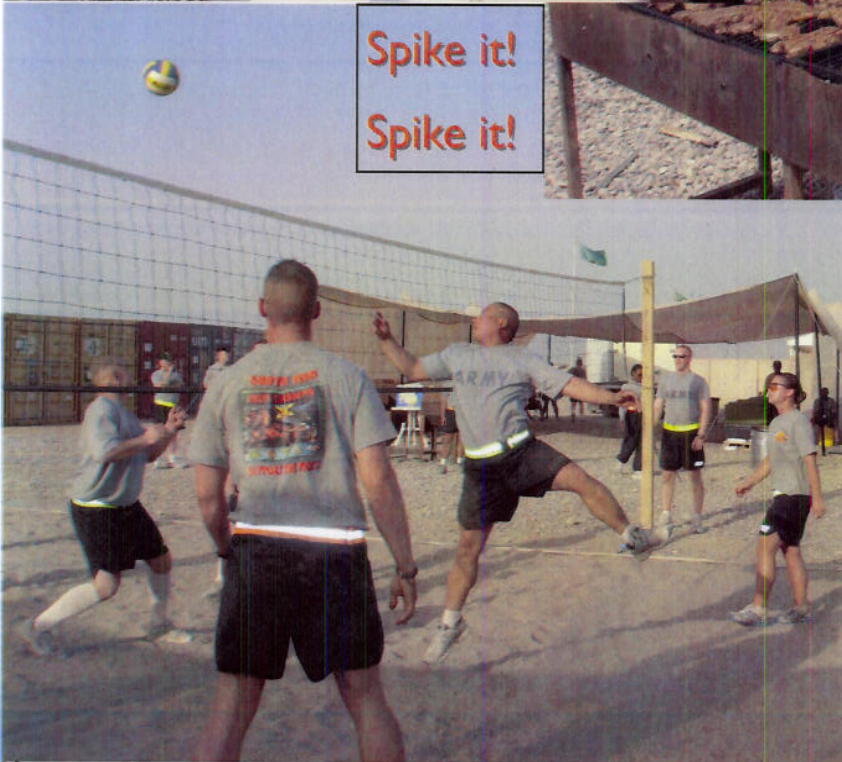
## Faces of the Iron Caissons The Caisson



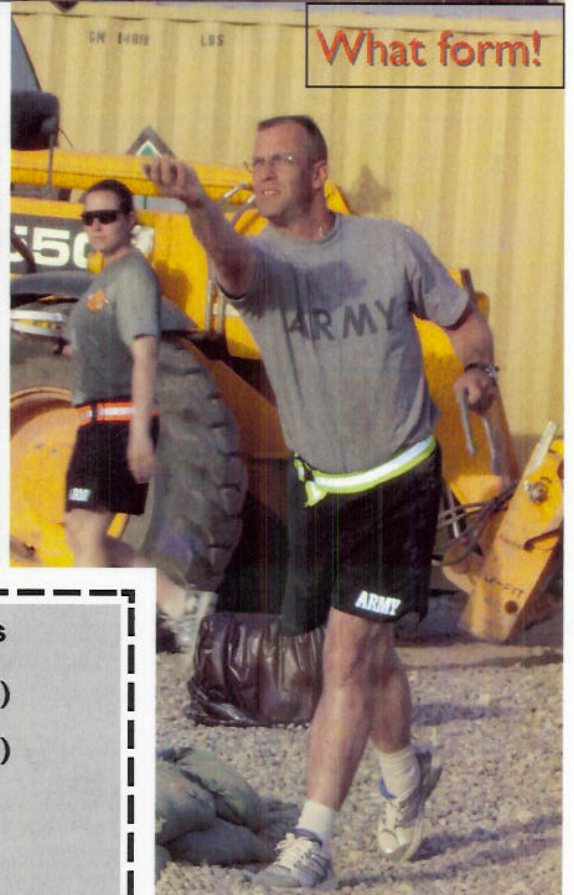
**Our Lieutenants really know how to cook!**



**Spike it!  
Spike it!**



**What form!**



**Postal Information: Sending Mail to Deployed Soldiers**

**PFC Jones, Paul (Include Soldiers Rank, Last, First Name)**

**A Co, 589th BSB, 4ID (Soldiers Company, 589th BSB, 4ID)**

**Unit # 43087**

**APO AE 09344-3087**



## The Caisson SPO Shop Corner



As the heat turns up here in Iraq, so has the mission of the 589th. These past two months have really flown by as the Iron Caissons team continues to support the entire 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division with world-class combat service support. Recently, the entire Support Operations section went all out to make the 2-20 FA feel right at home back here with the rest of the Fires Brigade. I thank all our family members for the wonderful support you give your soldiers. I'm truly proud of all the work the Support Operation team continues to do each and every day. Here's an update on the missions and highlights from the last few weeks:

The SPO Transportation Team, led by CPT Dan Freschi, received glowing compliments from the 2-20 FA chain-of-command in their work coordinating the unit's move. The SPOT Team could not have done it without the superb efforts of SSG Dunnaway, SFC Riley and SFC Jules—Great job SPOT! CPT Bird's MATO section manages maintenance operations for the Fires Brigade. Recently his section received huge praise for all their great work helping to keep the trucks, trailers, forklifts, and launchers



**Congrats to our newest Staff Sergeant—SSG Tackett.**

moving and shooting here in Baghdad. Our MATO section continues to set the example for others to follow as they meticulously execute their daily mission. The CSSAMO shop has and always will be on point to ensure our repair parts get ordered and our maintenance reports are accurate. Chief Owens and her crew recently converted almost all our computers to new laptops and also helped the 2-20 FA get settled in here at Liberty Base. The medical community supports our soldiers daily making many eye appointments for our soldiers to ensure proper eye care and administering shots to keep us immune to the environment. 1LT Kuhn, 2LT McClendon, SSG Pollard and SSG Parks symbolize the best in medical care and we appreciate their hard work. Transporting barriers to improve force protection at

critical locations has become a huge role for the Iron Caissons here in Iraq. The 589<sup>th</sup> recently began a new round of support missions for the Iraqi security forces throughout Baghdad. The man behind the scenes these days making sure coordination is complete is CPT Carmelo Madera. Carmelo continues to rise to each occasion to ensure our soldiers are able to execute their supporting roles with minimal issues. My hat's off to Carmelo and his team for the great planning work they do.

Two welcomed arrivals need to be mentioned as they both made a huge impact on the SPO shop quickly upon arrival. Both soldiers are combat veterans and bring extensive experience to the SPO shop. WO1 Bobby Etheridge, a supply technician, made his impact within the first week of being here working issues with the 2-20 FA move. We want to welcome Bobby and his wife Deandra and their children, Bobby and Neshun. SFC Luis Perez and his wife Marilyn joined us recently as well. They have three children—Luis, Angel, and Lizzmarie. SFC Perez now

manages ammunition for the Fires Brigade and his expertise is greatly appreciated. Welcome to these new members of the Iron Caisson family.

As we turn the corner at the half way point of the tour, I wish all of you a safe and enjoyable summer. Take full advantage of the time spent with your loved ones as they return home on leave. Please stay safe and know we miss you all and look forward to the day we can all be together. Until then, know that your Iron Caisson Support Operations soldiers are performing extremely well and that we are all proud of the professional way they Support the Fight!

- IC9 (MAJ) Todd Bertulis,  
SPO OIC)



**Congrats to our two new Specialists—SPC Huey and SPC Stringfield**

### ATTENTION FAMILY MEMBERS

Are you interested in doing a Video Tele-conference with your loved one in Iraq. See and hear your Soldier in a private live conversation for up to 10 min. Contact the 589th Rear Detachment Commander for details at (254) 288-2654